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SURVEY OF HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

THE SOCIETY AND THE STATE

From the time of making the last report down to April 10, 1919, forty-eight persons were received into membership in the State Historical Society. Twelve of these are life members: Otto Gaffron, Plymouth; Gritli Gattiker, Baraboo; Luise Gattiker, Baraboo; W. H. Hyde, Milwaukee; G. L. Lacher, Chicago; Warren J. Mead, Madison; Ludington Patton, Milwaukee; Louis Van Ess, Milwaukee; George Wagner, Madison; Julia Weinbrenner, Wauwatosa; Alexander Winchell, Madison; Franklin J. Wood, Grand Rapids.

Martin Schrank, Ashland, has changed from an annual to a life member, and the City Club of Milwaukee has been received into institutional membership.

The new annual members are: K. K. Amundson, Cambridge; H. L. Atkins, Madison; W. E. Babcock, Honey Creek; R. L. Benjamin, Waukesha; John Brehm, Waukesha; Charles J. Brewer, Eau Claire; Rev. R. A. Chase, Platteville; John F. Conant, Two Rivers; R. J. Diekelmann, Minneapolis; John L. Grindell, Platteville; Frank W. Hall, Madison; T. W. Hamilton, Berlin; M. A. Jacobson, Waukesha; Arthur James, Oshkosh; Carl G. Johnson, Eau Claire; Frederick Klaus Jr., Winneconne; Henry Krumrey, Plymouth; Otto Lacher, Detroit, Mich.; Norman T. Lund, Huron, N. Dak.; Mrs. H. H. Morgan, Madison; C. A. Nehs, Waukesha; Mrs. Charles E. Nelson, Waukesha; Grattan W. Norris, Waukesha; A. F. Olson, Cambridge; E. F. Potter, Cambridge; Chester Rohn, Milwaukee; G. B. Rusco, West Bend; Thomas Scholl, Milwaukee; Rev. G. C. Story, Ripon; Mrs. Homer Sylvester, Montfort; Fredrik L. Tronsdal, Eau Claire; John A. Week, Hollywood, Cal.; Martha G. Week, Stevens Point; Joseph E. Wildish, Milwaukee; Colin W. Wright, St. Paul, Minn.

Judge William J. Turner, of Milwaukee, a member of the State Historical Society, died suddenly of apoplexy at his home on February 15, aged seventy-one years. Judge Turner was born at Waukesha in 1848, his grandfather having removed thither from New York in 1839. The late Judge's family has participated creditably in the development of this country for several generations. On both the maternal and the paternal side his ancestors served in the Revolution; his father was a member of the Wisconsin constitutional convention. The Judge was long an active participant in educational and civic affairs.

Volume XXVI of the Society's *Collections* came from the press early in April, and should be in the hands of our readers in advance of this number of the Magazine. The volume is the first in the new constitutional series, whose contents are devoted to elucidating the history of our state constitution. Three more volumes will complete the series. One of these has been in the printer's hands since November, and may perhaps be expected from the press some time in the autumn. The final editorial touches are now being given the last two volumes. They should go to the printer before June and issue from the press some time next winter. The annual *Proceedings* of the Society for 1918 came from the press the first week in April. It is a pamphlet of fifty-three pages, devoted to the usual annual report of the Society's operations. Mr. Theodore Blegen's archival report, which the printer has had under way since May, 1918, is expected from the press momentarily. Under preparation at the present writing are Miss Kellogg's comprehensive history of early Wisconsin, and Mrs. Levi's combined history of the press of Wisconsin and checklist of Wisconsin newspapers. Arrangements have been made for Prof. Martha Edwards of Lake Erie College to spend the summer and autumn in the employ of the Society putting the concluding touches on her study of religious activities among the Indians, which the Society has long looked forward to publishing in its series of *Studies*.

The biennial appropriation by the legislature for the support of the Society is given under the three heads of operation, property repairs and maintenance, and capital. The respective sums granted annually for the biennium ending July 1, 1919, are \$52,000, \$780, and \$8,200. The 1919 legislature has provided annually for the biennium, which begins July 1, 1919, \$54,000 for operation, \$1,000 for repairs and maintenance, and \$8,200 for capital. Thus the total annual appropriation for the support of the Society is \$63,200, an increase of \$2,200 over the appropriation now current. Several other measures before the 1919 legislature affect the historical interests of the state. One provides for a War History Commission charged with the preparing of an official history of Wisconsin's part in the World War. For this purpose \$10,000 annually for two years is appropriated. This bill is sponsored by the State Council of Defense and the State Historical Society. It has the approval of the Governor and it seems difficult to believe that the legislature will fail to pass it. Two other bills, sponsored by Mr. P. V. Lawson, and animated by the theory that the affairs of the Society are not being efficiently or properly administered, are before the legislature. In response to the request of representatives of the Society, a joint legislative committee has been authorized to inquire into the conduct

of its affairs. We forbear comment until the committee shall have made its report.

Three years ago, through the intervention of the Michigan Historical Commission, the Society was enabled to procure from the owners, for the purpose of copying, the valuable letter books of the American Fur Company still preserved at Mackinac. The books then procured covered approximately the ten-year period from 1815 to 1825, and their contents constituted a rich addition to the material in the Library dealing with the fur trade. Photostat copies of these books were made for our own Library and for three sister institutions—the Michigan Historical Commission, the Chicago Historical Society, and the University of Illinois.

More recently, again through the intervention of the Michigan Historical Commission, the Society has secured the loan from another Michigan citizen of still another volume in the Mackinac letter book series of the American Fur Company. The contents of this volume cover the years 1823 to 1830, and so supplement admirably the contents of the volumes previously copied. Six sets of photostatic copies of this book were made during the winter—one for each of the institutions noted above as subscribing for the earlier records, and in addition for the Library of Congress and the Minnesota Historical Society.

The foregoing items concerning the reproduction of valuable historical records by photographic process illustrate one of the most remarkable aids to the progress of historical scholarship which has been developed for many years. It is a matter of just pride we believe to the membership of the Wisconsin Historical Society that this organization was one of the earliest pioneers in this field of work; indeed it is still a pioneer, for even now but few institutions in the United States are equipped to do the work our own Society has for several years been doing in this field. How competent experts regard this service is shown by the following resolution which was voted unanimously at the annual conference of directors of historical work in the states of the Northwest held at Chicago in December, 1918:

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF
STATE HISTORICAL WORK IN THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI
VALLEY, CHICAGO, DECEMBER 7, 1918

WHEREAS the State Historical Society of Wisconsin possesses a photostat for the copying of manuscripts, newspapers, and other records by photographic process, and employs a skilled workman to operate the same; and WHEREAS the Society offers to place these facilities freely at the disposal of

historical institutions and scholars for the reproduction of records for scholarly use,

Resolved, unanimously, That we view with approval this attitude on the part of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. We regard the service it proffers as a real aid to the development of mid-western historical scholarship, and cordially recommend to owners of manuscripts or newspaper files that they coöperate with the Society in its efforts to render such records more generally accessible to scholars by granting the Society permission to make copies of these records for placing in historical and other libraries which may have need of them.

SOLON J. BUCK

Secretary

On August 11, 1787, at Lexington, Kentucky, was issued the *Kentucke Gazette*, the first newspaper published west of the Allegheny Mountains. For several years it had no competitor, and for many years it continued to be an important diary of events in the West. So completely has this earliest western paper disappeared that but one important file is known to be still in existence. This is owned, appropriately enough, by the Lexington Public Library. Some time since the librarian of the University of Michigan obtained permission from the Lexington Library authorities to make a photostatic copy of the *Gazette* with a view to placing reproductions of it in the leading American libraries. Seventeen institutions subscribed for transcripts of the paper, among them being the Wisconsin Historical Society. The first installment of the work, comprising the period from August, 1787, to August, 1791, has at length been received; additional installments will be made as rapidly as practicable until each of the subscribing libraries shall have a photostatic facsimile of the complete file of this rare and historically valuable paper. While the original file will always possess chief sentimental value, for practical purposes of consultation and research the photostatic reproductions are quite as accurate and valuable as the original. Henceforth the *Kentucke Gazette* will be at the command of thousands of students who could never have consulted it if compelled to make the journey to the one original file at Lexington.

Through the kindness of Mr. Wingfield Watson of Burlington the collection of Wisconsin newspapers in the Historical Library has been enriched by the addition of a long run of one of the rarest and most interesting of American newspapers. Readers of Henry E. Legler's sketch, "A Moses of the Mormons," in the Parkman Club Publications two decades ago are familiar with the remarkable career of Wisconsin's Mormon prophet, J. J. Strang, who claimed to be the divinely ordained successor to Joseph Smith. Strang established two chosen cities, one called Voree, near Burlington, Wisconsin, the other on Beaver Island near the upper end of Lake Michigan. At the latter place he assumed the title of king, founded the kingdom of

St. James, and supported a royal press. Kingdom and king alike came to a sudden and violent end in June, 1856, when Strang was shot from ambush by a brace of cowardly assassins, and following this his subjects were driven into exile by a mob of neighboring fishermen. At Voree, beginning in 1845, Strang published for more than four years a weekly paper (monthly during the first year) styled variously the *Voree Herald*, *Zion's Reveille*, and the *Gospel Herald*. Upon removal to Beaver Island he began the issuance of the *Northern Islander*. This was supposed to be a weekly, but it was discontinued during the long period of winter isolation of the Islanders from contact with the outside world, and toward the end a few issues of a daily edition were put out. In all 180 numbers of the *Voree Herald* were issued, and 90 numbers of the *Northern Islander*. Both are excessively rare; indeed, so far as known no one has a complete file of either paper, and it is doubtful whether all copies of some issues have not ceased to exist. The Wisconsin Historical Library has long had some sixty scattering issues of the *Voree Herald*, but no single issue of the *Northern Islander*. Probably the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints at Lamoni, Iowa, has some issues of Strang's press, but positive information on this point is not at hand. Mr. Watson, still after sixty years of exile and tribulation as firm a believer as ever in Strang's divine calling, has exerted himself through many years to secure and preserve the files of his papers. As a result he has succeeded in collecting 152 numbers of the *Herald* and 72 numbers of the *Northern Islander*. In his file of the *Herald* together with the file owned by the Society are represented 162 of the total 180 issues of this paper. So far as present information goes, Mr. Watson's file of the *Northern Islander* is the only one in existence; as already noted it contains 72 of the total 90 numbers originally issued. These files have now been loaned by Mr. Watson to the Historical Society to permit the making of photostatic copies. Henceforth the Library's newspaper collection will be enriched by the possession of copies of all the papers owned by Mr. Watson which are not already represented by originals in the Society's file. It is already evident that in the light of these and other sources of information not available to Mr. Legler the story of King Strang's Mormon enterprise must be written anew.

Closely allied to the foregoing in interest and importance is a manuscript record also loaned by Mr. Watson for the purpose of copying. This is the "Chronicle of Voree," a portion of the official record of the church at Voree, covering the years 1844 to 1849. While this volume contains much that was also printed in the church paper, there is much additional historical material which for various reasons was not put into the paper. The original manuscript is one

of the sacred records of the now sadly-scattered church of Prophet Strang—a church whose few surviving followers still firmly believe will shortly be restored to power and glory, with its sacred city at Independence, Missouri, where shall be erected a temple more magnificent than that of King Solomon of old.

The State Historical Society Museum has in preparation several traveling loan exhibits illustrating pioneer domestic arts. These collections, which will be available for use by Wisconsin schools, are intended to be used by teachers in giving instruction in history. They will be encased in neat, convenient-sized wooden boxes, the specimens in each to consist of an old-fashioned candlestick, candle snuffer, candle mould, tin lantern, betty lamp, steelyard, flax cards, and other interesting objects to be found in early American households. The specimens selected for use are of an unbreakable character and sufficiently common to be readily replaced if lost; each one will be accompanied by printed matter descriptive of the manner of its use.

In a separate compartment in the case there will be placed a series of photographs illustrating the interior of a pioneer kitchen, its furniture, and utensils. Each of these also will be labeled with full information.

The Society hopes by means of these loan collections to extend still further the benefits of its museum to Wisconsin schools. Many pupils, often from distant points in the state, have been coming to Madison for purposes of instruction each year for a number of years. The loan collections are an experiment in this direction and, if successful, others will be prepared for circulation.

The exhibits are to be loaned on the application of principals and teachers for limited periods of time.

A full-length portrait of President Edward A. Birge of the University of Wisconsin, by Christian Abrahamsen, the Chicago portrait painter, is being exhibited in the auditorium of the State Historical Museum. This portrait, which was painted in a studio provided for the artist in North Hall, has received a very favorable reception from members of the University faculty and friends of the President. He is shown wearing his doctor's robe.

A portrait of Professor Joseph Jastrow, by the same artist, was also exhibited during the winter.

A number of exhibitions of paintings and drawings under the direction of the Madison Art Association in the Museum since the first of the year have been well attended and appreciated by the public. Special visits were made to these exhibits by the art classes of the University and of the Madison high school who on these occasions were given lectures and other instruction by their teachers.

The Association is now making an exhibit of fifty paintings and pen and ink drawings by Allied artists interned in Switzerland and twenty-three landscapes and other oils chiefly by George E. Browne and Eliot Clark.

Lieut. Ray E. Williams and Mr. Frank H. West have each made some important additions to the collections of European war materials deposited by them in the Historical Museum. Other interesting specimens have also been received from Mr. John R. Heddle and Mr. Christo Ganchoff, Wisconsin men who are members of the American Army of Occupation in Luxembourg and Germany. A particularly interesting gift is a fine neolithic flint hatchet obtained by Lieut. Harold Wengler of the 100th United States Aero Squadron at Notre Dame d'Öe, France. It was being used as a paper weight in the village grocery store. It was picked up in a field.

Lieut. Col. George E. Laidlaw of Victoria Road, Ontario, has continued to furnish examples of Canadian war posters as they appeared. These are exhibited in the Museum and then sent to the Society's manuscript department for cataloguing and filing. An interesting series of South African posters was obtained through the intervention of the same good friend.

Mr. Carl H. Johnson, Madison, has deposited in the Museum permits and other papers issued to him by the Bolshevik government in Russia in 1918. Another interesting Bolshevik proclamation has been received from Capt. Horatio Winslow who is serving with the Allied forces in Russia.

The collection of Wisconsin Indian quartzite implements of the late William H. Ellsworth, of Milwaukee, has been presented to the public museum of that city by his granddaughter, Mrs. Jane Asmuth. Mr. Frank G. Logan, of Chicago, has purchased and presented to the Logan Museum of Beloit College the archeological collection of some 3,000 stone and other implements of Mr. William H. Ekley, of Milwaukee. The heirs of Dr. Louis Falge, of Manitowoc, have given to the State Historical Museum a large part of the collection made by him from Indian village sites in Manitowoc County.

During the past fifteen years many members of the Wisconsin Archeological Society have presented or deposited their collections in Wisconsin public museums. As a result, the collections of this nature available to students in Wisconsin are now probably unequalled by any in the country.

At New London a public museum has been organized in connection with the public library with Mr. C. F. Carr as curator and Rev. F. S. Dayton as assistant curator.

With the other war activities of the state, in the main, declining in interest and importance, the work of the county war history com-

mittees may be said to be now at high tide. This increased activity is inspired in large part by the continuous home-coming of men from service overseas and the consequent possibility of completing individual records. The one great item of work is the preparation of the soldier record cards, which calls for much publicity, correspondence, telephoning, and personal calls to get the desired data. Many ingenious methods and agencies have been called into play to get these and other results. In some instances the work is done through the district schools; in others by the Red Cross home service sections; in some cities by women's clubs or war mothers making house to house canvasses; in some localities by the running of blank cards in the newspapers. At Ladysmith club rooms have been opened free to returning soldiers for some months and blanks are kept for obtaining individual records. At Baraboo, Manitowoc, and other places public-spirited photographers, in addition to making a free picture for each returning soldier who presents himself, also obtain his record for the history committee of the county. When this material shall have been secured many committees will give their attention to the indexing of their material, in which work a number have already made much headway. Most of the committees have received and filed the newspapers of their counties. Not all have been so successful in obtaining reports on war work by chairmen and secretaries of activities and many such could now be obtained only by personal interviews by experienced interviewers and investigators. It proves again that the work of collecting data was at least not begun too soon. A number of counties will also put their material into book form.

The state council and the state committee have not urged the writing of county histories of the war, but have emphasized rather the importance of collecting the thousand and one fleeting forms of material before they are lost forever. However, they have not discouraged such writing of county histories, and in a half dozen counties the history chairmen—in these instances more or less experienced historical writers—in addition to directing the collection of local material are at work on the preparation of county war histories.

In this great historical undertaking the state of Wisconsin has again proved to be a notable pioneer. If any state was in the field doing such work in advance of Wisconsin, it has not come to our knowledge. On the other hand, many neighboring states have adopted the Wisconsin plan, some in toto, others with inconsequential modifications. Many letters come to the State Historical Society calling for information concerning the Wisconsin method or outlines of the state's plan. In some states, unfortunately, the

work of collecting material, which has been so efficiently prosecuted in Wisconsin for over a year, is just now beginning and large appropriations are being made for the work which so far has been carried on here without pay by hundreds of patriotic volunteer workers.

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters and the Wisconsin Archeological Society held a joint meeting at Milwaukee on Thursday and Friday, March 27 and 28, all of the sessions being held in the Milwaukee Public Museum and Library building. About fifty papers were presented at this meeting, which was attended by about one hundred members of the two organizations. Papers on Indian archeology and history were presented by Dr. Louise P. Kellogg, H. E. Cole, Dr. S. A. Barrett, Dr. A. Gerend, Dr. George L. Collie, C. E. Brown and others. On Thursday evening Major J. H. Mathews of the University of Wisconsin delivered a public lecture on "Gas Warfare," in which branch of military service he was recently employed.

This was the tenth annual meeting which the two societies have held. Next year the Academy will celebrate at Madison in an appropriate manner its fiftieth anniversary.

President E. A. Birge of the University of Wisconsin is the president of the Academy; among its organizers were Dr. Increase A. Lapham, Alexander Mitchell, Dr. Philo R. Hoy, and other prominent early residents of the state.

The Wisconsin Archeological Society held its annual meeting in the trustee room of the Public Museum at Milwaukee on Monday evening, March 17. Dr. Samuel A. Barrett was elected president of the state society; Dr. E. J. W. Notz, W. H. Vogel, George A. West, Milwaukee, A. T. Newman, Bloomer, and H. P. Hamilton, Two Rivers, vice presidents; and Joseph Ringeisen Jr., and Charles G. Schoewe, Milwaukee, directors. L. R. Whitney, Milwaukee, and Charles E. Brown, Madison, were reelected to the offices of treasurer and secretary, respectively. These officers constitute the executive board of the society which has a large membership in Wisconsin and many members in adjoining states. At this meeting an illustrated lecture on "The Agriculture of the Arucanian Indians of Southern Chile" was delivered by Mr. D. S. Bullock of the University of Wisconsin. Mr. Bullock served among these Indians for a period of ten years as an industrial missionary. There are about 125,000 of these Indians in southern Chile and the Argentine Republic.

Attractive exhibits of Wisconsin and other stone implements and ornaments were made at this meeting by several members of the society.

In the course of a number of years the society has been able to publish a number of monographs descriptive of the copper implements and ornaments, the grooved axes, spuds, ceremonial knives, flint perforators, sinkers, pipes, marine shell implements, bird and banner stones, trade implements, and other weapons, tools, and ornaments used by the early Indians of Wisconsin.

Stone Celts is the title of a new publication of the society, which is devoted to a description of the stone hatchets or tomahawks used by these Indians. It is estimated that several thousand of these interesting implements have been recovered from graves, mounds, and sites of Indian camps and villages during the past fifty years.

Five classes of these, classified according to their shape, comprise a number of odd and peculiar forms. Many of these are well made and ground or finely polished. A small number known as fluted celts have blades ornamented with longitudinal grooves. Celts were used by the Indians of the larger part of the United States for many purposes. The lighter ones bound to short wooden handles were used as hatchets or tomahawks in warfare or for killing game, for cutting down trees, splitting soft wood, cutting holes in the ice, and for general use about the wigwam. Celts weigh from less than a pound to from three to five pounds. Specimens weighing from fifteen to twenty pounds have been found. The largest known celt weighs forty pounds.

A series of experiments in photographing typical specimens of the ancient Indian effigy mounds of Wisconsin has been undertaken by Mr. George R. Fox, director of The Chamberlain Memorial Museum of Three Oaks, Michigan, who came to Wisconsin for this purpose in April. Advance plans for his work include visits to the turtle shaped mound on the Beloit College campus, the Fort Atkinson intaglio effigy recently permanently preserved by the ladies of that city, and other animal shaped earthworks at Lake Koshkonong, Madison, Baraboo, and other localities in southern Wisconsin. Among others to be visited was the famous man mound which was purchased and preserved some years ago in Man Mound park, at a distance of several miles from Baraboo, by the Wisconsin Archeological Society, Sauk County Historical Society, and History section of the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs.

Mr. Fox has been particularly successful in previous trials in securing good photographs of effigy mounds and of Indian garden beds by methods of his own. Of some of these pictures good lantern slides have been made. The low height, huge proportions, and environment of the effigy mounds make them particularly difficult to photograph, it being necessary to build a platform or to photograph them from the tops or branches of convenient trees.

At the time of going to press Mr. George B. Merrick, leading authority on Mississippi River steamboating history, lies seriously ill at his Madison residence, having recently suffered a stroke of paralysis. His illness checks for the time being the publication of a nearly completed series of historical papers on "Steamboats and Steamboatmen on the Upper Mississippi." These papers, which have been running in the weekly issues of the Burlington *Saturday Evening Post* for several years past, have been read and appreciated by present and former steamboatmen in every part of the United States.

Alexander Fletcher, of Kenosha, who is credited by the local press with being the community's oldest resident and reputed to be 103 years of age, died January 10, 1919. Mr. Fletcher retained his mental faculties until the end of life, and was able to relate many interesting recollections of the last seventy-five years of Kenosha's history.

The press of January 19 reports the resignation of the oldest postmaster in Wisconsin, James F. Walsh, of Clyman. Mr. Walsh was first appointed postmaster by Andrew Johnson and served continuously for fifty-two years.

On February 8, Lyman W. Thayer died at his home at Ripon at the age of sixty-four. Mr. Thayer had served as member of his county board, as state senator and assemblyman. During 1916 and 1917 he served as mayor of Ripon.

David F. Sayre of the town of Porter, Rock County, celebrated his ninety-seventh birthday January 14, 1919. Mr. Sayre is a college alumnus of seventy-five years' standing, having graduated from the University of the City of New York in 1844. He came to Wisconsin in 1849 by way of the Hudson River and Erie Canal, and began the practice of law at Fulton. In 1851 he purchased the farm on which he still resides. In 1849 Mr. Sayre established a union Sunday school, of which he was elected superintendent. To this position he has been annually reëlected to the present time, a period of seventy years.

The daily press of January 11 brings the information that an ancient tavern in the town of Yorkville, Racine County, is about to be razed to give place to a modern bungalow. The building is said to have been erected in 1835, and in 1837 passed into the hands of Marshall M. Strong. Strong was a prominent newspaper man of Racine, a member of the first constitutional convention of 1846, and in general one of the most brilliant men who ever lived in Wisconsin. Strong soon sold to Roland Ives, who moved into the building in 1838, and after whom the place has ever since been known as "Ives Grove."

"The finest winter meeting the society ever had," is reported from Baraboo by President Cole of the Sauk County Historical Society. The meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Avery, one of the historical associations of which is a large elm planted by Mr. Avery at the time President Lincoln was assassinated. About fifty persons attended the picnic supper and the historical program which followed. Mrs. L. H. Palmer read a paper on the work of women in the Civil War; Judge O'Neill, of Neillsville, gave an address on the Balkans; and James A. Stone, of Reedsburg, discussed European conditions and the League of Nations.

At a meeting of the Eau Claire County Historical Society, January 11, 1919, J. T. Barber was elected president, Wm. W. Bartlett, vice president, Ralph W. Owen, secretary, and Mrs. E. B. Ingram, treasurer of the organization. Plans were laid looking to a vigorous membership campaign and much interest was expressed in the present work and future prospects of the society. The Eau Claire society has for some time devoted special attention to the lumbering industry, and under the direction of Vice President Bartlett a notable series of logging articles has been prepared and published in the local paper.

A movement has been initiated at Madison having for its object the creation of a city park on the site of the first house erected in the state capital. The house was built in the spring of 1837 under the shade of a large bur oak tree near the shore of Lake Monona, just off the present King Street. Here the lares and penates of the Peck family were installed, temporarily at least, and here the workmen, who had come from Milwaukee to build in the midst of the wilderness a capitol which should house the government over a domain imperial in extent and resources, found more or less ample accommodation. The house long since disappeared, but the historic oak tree still spreads its branches to the breeze as sturdily as eighty years ago.

A dispatch from Reserve to the *Superior Telegram* of February 8 conveys news of the death of Wabakosid, reputed to have been the oldest Indian in the state. How old this representative of Wisconsin's native American stock really was is a matter for conjecture. Local reports credit her with being a full-grown married woman in 1825 and place her birth at about the year 1805. For the past twenty years she has lived with a grandson who is said to be a man of over seventy years.

We have no particular information concerning Mrs. Wabakosid, but we surmise that in strict justice she might have indignantly repudiated the local estimates concerning her supposed antiquity.

Unlettered persons are prone to exaggerate concerning their age, and when one comes to be regarded in the light of a local institution the general public is far from critical with respect to such claims. The story of Joseph Crély, an aged Wisconsin half-breed, is instructive in this connection. Crély lived at the Portage in the early thirties, where he came under the observation of Mrs. Kinzie, the author of *Wau Bun*, and to this circumstance he owes his position on the pages of Wisconsin history. Some thirty years later, during the Civil War, as Mrs. Kinzie relates, the papers of Chicago (now her home) advertised for exhibition in Wood's Museum "the most remarkable instance of longevity on record—the venerable Joseph Crély," who was represented as being one hundred thirty-nine years of age. The account given by Mrs. Kinzie of a visit paid to the acquaintance of earlier years, who had grown old at such a remarkable rate, is amusing enough, but we have not space to report it here. Suffice it to say that in the opinion of men like John H. Kinzie, Satterlee Clark, and H. L. Dousman, of Prairie du Chien, who had known Crély for many years, his age was not over ninety-five, and was possibly several years less than this.

Three or four decades hence the newspapers will contain frequent mention of the doings of the John Pershing Smiths and the Woodrow Wilson Browns who are now occupying the cradles—the cradle still exists among our foreign born—or creeping over the floors of numerous American homes. An interesting illustration of this practice in the days of our fathers is called to public attention by the death near Baraboo on February 24 of Gideon Welles Haskins. Mr. Haskins was one of male triplets born at South Starksboro, Vermont, in May, 1861. The father, overwhelmed, perhaps, by his good fortune, appealed to President Lincoln to name the children. The President responded to this appeal by proposing the names Abraham Lincoln Haskins, Gideon Welles Haskins, and Simon Cameron Haskins. Two of the three brothers are still living. Probably this is the only instance in American history where a president and two members of his cabinet have succeeded in maintaining intimate relations for almost three score years.

Within the last few years a corporation of Wisconsin origin has stretched a highway of steel from the shores of Lake Michigan to those of Puget Sound. Mr. A. J. Earling, the man responsible for this gigantic enterprise, terminated in January a fifty-four year term of active service in the employ of the Milwaukee Railroad. Born at Richfield, Wisconsin, in 1848, at seventeen years of age Mr. Earling began his railroad career as a telegraph operator. Thirty-four years later he succeeded Roswell Miller as president of the Mil-

waukee road, and this important position he continued to fill for eighteen years. Since the autumn of 1917 he has been chairman of the board of directors of the company. As president his most striking achievement was the extension of Wisconsin's pioneer railroad line—originally intended to tap the commerce of the Mississippi for the benefit of Milwaukee—westward to the Pacific coast.

In doing this Mr. Earling realized in part a dream of railroad expansion which greatly agitated our grandfathers in the period of Wisconsin's infancy. About the middle forties Asa Whitney startled the nation with a project which should connect Milwaukee by rail with both the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts. For a brief space the sprawling ten-year-old town entertained the dream of becoming the nation's great interior entrepot, the center of a world-wide commerce. Whitney proposed to build a due east and west line from Milwaukee to the Pacific. The cost of construction was estimated at \$50,000,000, the period of time involved at twenty-five years. The road was to be run through a silent wilderness, and the promoter sought, by way of compensation, grant of a tract of public land extending thirty miles on either side of it.

The prospect of reward held out to the public was alluring. Milwaukee would be within four days' travel from the Pacific—within twenty-five days from China. The counterpart of the scheme, the construction of a line from the Atlantic seaboard to Lake Michigan, would put Wisconsin's nascent metropolis in close touch with the markets of the eastern seaboard and Europe. Over the steel highway thus to be constructed would flow a world-wide commerce; into the limitless lands of the West would pour unending hosts of settlers. No wonder such a project dazzled the eyes of the 150,000 citizens of the youthful territory of Wisconsin. It drew the fire of no less an authority on the West than Stephen A. Douglas, ever mindful of the interests of Chicago, Milwaukee's vigilant lake shore rival. The rival plan which he put forward contained at least one suggestion of vast importance in the future development of the West. It was that, instead of granting a solid sixty-mile strip of land to the promoters of such a railroad, alternate sections only should be granted, reserving the others for settlement. In the grants which Congress later made to aid the building of railroads this idea was commonly adhered to, with economic and other results of tremendous importance to the settlement and development of the West.

Whitney died with his project still but a splendid dream. It was reserved for a child as yet unborn, the future A. J. Earling, to bind Milwaukee to Puget Sound by a band of steel, and thus to realize in part Whitney's dream. We say in part, for meanwhile

Chicago had grasped for herself the coveted commercial preëminence which our forefathers fondly hoped might be gained by Milwaukee, fortifying her position by a chain of railway transportation which bids fair to assure her for all coming time the commercial preëminence she fairly achieved during the second half of the nineteenth century. Even our own Milwaukee road a few years since gave outward recognition of the thoroughness of Chicago's commercial mastery by removing its headquarters from Milwaukee to the Windy City. From its original purpose of upholding the greatness of the north shore rival metropolis, the Milwaukee has become one of the greatest feeders ministering to the commercial supremacy of Chicago. From the provincial Badger viewpoint it is exciting to reflect upon the possibilities that might have ensued had A. J. Earling been born half a century earlier. As for Asa Whitney, the enduring credit remains with him of having been the first to arouse popular interest in the project of a Pacific railroad, and imbue the public mind with an understanding of the necessity of such a road to the nation and the determination as soon as possible to build it.

James W. Bashford, who died at his home in Pasadena, California, on March 18, was a son of Wisconsin who from humble beginnings by the exercise of industry and native genius came to commune with the great ones of earth. Samuel M. Bashford, his father, was a native of New York City who in early life learned the medical art. In 1835 he joined the tide of westward migration which led him to Grant County, Wisconsin. Dissatisfied with the medical calling he now became a farmer, but it is recorded that in the absence of trained practitioners in the frontier region to which he had come he was often called upon for medical assistance, which he granted "cheerfully and free of charge." In 1843 he married Mrs. Mary Parkinson, and some time prior to 1849 settled in the town of Fayette, Lafayette County. While continuing the calling of farmer he began local preaching in the Methodist Episcopal Church. The manuscript United States census report for 1850 in the Historical Library discloses that he then had a farm of 200 acres and gives numerous data concerning his live stock, crops, and farming equipment. In June, 1850, while conducting religious services at Willow Springs, he was stricken with apoplexy and died in the pulpit, at the early age of thirty-six.

To Samuel and Mary Bashford were born several children in the years from 1843 to 1850, two of whom were destined to future greatness. One, Robert M. Bashford, died a justice of the supreme court of Wisconsin. The other, James W. Bashford, the subject of our present sketch, rounded out a notable career as preacher and educator and bishop for fifteen years in the Methodist Church. The

future bishop's preparatory training was received at the hands of Prof. John Barber Parkinson in the "select school" conducted by him at Fayette. In 1867 the latter became professor in the state University, a connection which still continues. In 1869 Young Bashford followed his former instructor to Madison, graduated from the University in 1873, and thereafter for several years taught and studied in the institution, receiving the Master's degree in 1876. While a student here he became converted at a prayer meeting in the Madison-Methodist Episcopal Church. He also fell in love with Jennie Field, a Madison girl, who is still remembered by old-timers as one of the most brilliant women who ever attended the University. At that time the right of women to a university education was still called in question, at least in Wisconsin, and President Chadbourne was inclined to take the negative side of the proposition. One informant relates that the issue was finally determined in favor of coeducation by Jennie Field. In 1874 she captured every class honor open to student competition. In the face of this demonstration of the possibilities of female intellectual endeavor the opponents of coeducation were silenced and coeducational the University remains unto this day.

Bashford studied theology at Yale and for a dozen years preached in various eastern churches. During this period, according to the official organ of his church, he was eleven times invited to assume college presidencies. To this repeated importunity he finally yielded in 1889, becoming president of Ohio Wesleyan University. From this position he was made bishop in 1904. According to the same authority he "would have been welcomed as resident bishop in any city in America." To the surprise of many he promptly asked to be sent to China. His reason was the belief that China was "turning a corner in history," so that effort expended here toward shaping the future of the human race would give greater results than anywhere else in the world. To China Bashford went and there remained until the end of his life. Notwithstanding this self-imposed exile he kept intimately in touch with the homeland. At various times he was consulted on important international questions by the governments of Japan, China, and the United States. From Lafayette County farmer's boy to the title, fairly earned, of "world citizen" is a long journey; briefly put, it measures the achievement of this son of the Badger State.

Through the intercession of John L. Grindell, of Platteville, Mr. C. A. Rafter, who recently removed to Platteville from Mississippi deposited in the State Historical Museum in January an interesting firearm, a flintlock Kentucky rifle of the kind which a century and a quarter ago won for the hardy pioneers of the dark and bloody ground the sobriquet "the long hunters." The fact which lends

particular interest to this gun, however, is the inscription carved on the stock, "Boons True Fren," and in another place the letters "D. B." Also on the stock is a row of five grim notches each of which is supposed to commemorate the sending of a redskin to the happy hunting grounds. The history of the gun so far as known to Mr. Rafter is stated in a letter of January 29:

"Dr. Norcop or Count DuBois, as he used to be called, came to the Mountains of Northeast Georgia several years ago and built a rustic castle in which he lived very much by himself and collected relics.

"He was well educated, much traveled, and altogether a very interesting character. The Boone rifle hung over his fireplace. It was my pleasure to call upon him whenever in his vicinity, and upon one of these visits I asked him to will the old rifle to me when he was through with it. Shortly after this he brought it to me. He claimed that he purchased it from a Tennessee mountaineer about forty years ago and that the marks now on it were then on it.

"The doctor is getting quite old now and I had a letter from him the other day in which he said 'My health is fast failing and I am about to take the great adventure'—I expect to hear any day of his death."

Within a few days after writing this letter Mr. Rafter perished in the Platteville fire, thus anticipating his aged friend in embarking on the great adventure. More light on the possible history of the old gun is afforded by a letter written the Society March 13 by the superintendent of schools of Johnson City, Tennessee. "It was within a few miles (eight) of Johnson City," he writes, "that Daniel Boone killed a bear in the year 1760. The tree stood till two years ago. Older people recall the distinct words: 'D. Boon cilled a Bar on trEE in yEar 1760.' A marker has been placed there. It is quite evident that it was the same rifle that you have that Daniel Boone used in killing the bear, and we would like very much to have a good and distinct picture of the gun, showing the words and notches (supposed to represent number of Indians killed)."

We do not think the evidence is conclusive that "D. Boon cilled a Bar" in 1760 with the gun now in our possession, although it is not at all improbable that such is the fact. At any rate the gun is a highly interesting weapon and one can hardly look upon it without having the imagination stirred by pictures of the far-away scenes through which it must have passed.

On January 24, 1919, Paul Palmiter, of Albion, completed a century of existence in this world of trouble. When he was born modern Wisconsin was an outlying part of Michigan Territory, the source of the Mississippi River was undiscovered, Illinois had just

been admitted to statehood with a total population about equal to that of Madison today, Abraham Lincoln was a ten-year-old boy living in squalid wretchedness in southern Indiana, and Queen Victoria, who died years ago after the longest reign in English history, was still unborn; anesthetics and germs were alike unknown, while Asiatic cholera and yellow fever periodically scourged the United States. Politically the Holy Alliance dominated the European world, the Monroe Doctrine was still unborn, and bands of Sioux and Foxes, Potawatomi and Winnebago fought over the lordship of forest clad Wisconsin. One who has witnessed the changes of the busiest century in human history may well repeat the words of the first telegram (which was not sent, incidentally, until Mr. Palmiter was a man of twenty-five) "What hath God wrought." We visited Mr. Palmiter last summer and found him in the enjoyment of all his faculties, with a clear mind and an excellent memory. Since 1841 he has been a resident of Wisconsin. He might be called a lifelong Republican, were it not for the fact that he had lived a third of a century before the Republican party was born. More recently he has voted the Prohibition ticket, and for President Wilson.

Milo C. Jones, of Fort Atkinson, famous manufacturer of sausages, died suddenly at his home in January at the age of seventy years. Mr. Jones' successful business career in the face of physical handicaps, which would have deterred an ordinary individual from even dreaming of accomplishing anything in the world of work, constitutes an inspiring chapter in the annals of human industry. Of him a chronicler wrote some years ago: "His life is a monument to grit. He stands out as a man of iron nerve. More than once, when fate had shaken to shreds some youthful ideal that seemed to be the final goal, or the odds in some contest did not seem to offer me a fighting chance, a thought of Jones has proved as invigorating as a dash of salt spray on a summer day."

Miss Mary Woodman has presented to the Society three interesting manuscript volumes received from her father, Cyrus Woodman. Two of them consist of copies taken by Mr. Woodman of French documents pertaining to the early exploration of the Mississippi Valley. The third is the original manuscript of E. D. Beouchard's "Vindication." Beouchard came to Wisconsin at least as early as 1822, served in the Black Hawk and Mexican wars, and was living at Mineral Point as late as 1877. In Volume VI of the Society's *Collections* Dr. Draper published some recollections of several Green County pioneers which reflected very severely on the character of Beouchard. This drew from the aged pioneer a sturdy letter of protest entitled by the author his "Self Deffance." This

document was later procured and preserved by Mr. Woodman, who had it neatly bound in August, 1879, with the intention, apparently, of presenting it to the State Historical Society. For some reason this was not done, and accordingly the volume now comes to us, forty years later. From several points of view the "Deffance" is an interesting manuscript. Comparison of the original manuscript with Draper's printed version of it serves admirably to show the changed conception which historical editors of the present day hold toward their work as compared with those of Draper's time. Beouchard was an illiterate frontiersman, and his narrative breathes the very atmosphere of the rude time in which he lived. Draper so edited the document for publication that it comes forth with an air of polished refinement as though its author had been a cultured college professor. Such editing of an original document would today be regarded as both improper and unscholarly.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Ellis B. Usher, of Milwaukee ("Cyrus Woodman: A Character Sketch"), is a veteran Wisconsin editor and publicist. Born in Maine in 1852, he was brought to Wisconsin by his parents in 1855, the family settling in La Crosse County the following year. Mr. Usher became an editor and publisher at La Crosse in 1875, and so continued for a quarter of a century. In recent years Mr. Usher has lived in Milwaukee where he conducts a publicity office. He was long active in politics, being for three years chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, and in 1896 one of the organizers of the national gold Democratic movement. Mr. Usher is a life member of the State Historical Society, and the author of "The Telegraph in Wisconsin," published in the *Proceedings* of the Society for 1913.

Louise P. Kellogg ("The Story of Wisconsin, 1634-1848") is a member of the staff of the State Historical Society. To all who have any knowledge of the Society's publications during the last dozen years she requires no introduction.

Appleton Morgan ("Recollections of Early Racine") of New York City has long since achieved prominence in the field of law and in that of literature. A native of Maine, he came in boyhood to Wisconsin. Upon graduation from Racine College he turned his steps toward the nation's metropolis, studied law, and soon won for himself a position of prominence in the profession. In 1886 he retired from professional practice, and has since devoted much attention to literature. He founded and was for twenty-five years president of the Shakespeare Society of New York. He is the

author or editor of numerous works on legal subjects and on Shakespeare, among them being the Bankside edition of Shakespeare in twenty-two volumes and the Bankside Restoration Shakespeare in five volumes.

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Darlington *Democrat* has devoted more space to Wisconsin and local history in recent months than any other paper that has come under our notice. In the issue for March 13 was begun a series of articles by S. E. Roberts of Rapid City, South Dakota, on "Early Recollections of Fayette and Vicinity."

The Oshkosh *Northwestern* for January 25 contains an interesting history of the local First Baptist Church, written by Georgia Ellsworth.

From Carl Quickert, editor of the West Bend *News*, comes a report of the following interesting project: "I am just getting ready for publication a second edition of the history of Washington County. It is to be a revised and greatly improved edition, a real history and nothing else. I intend to publish the history (about 75,000 words) in the West Bend *News*, and then strike off about 500 copies in book form."

Among Wisconsin books brought out as a result of the World War are two designed to give a general historical survey of the part taken by the state and its citizens in the great world conflict, *Wisconsin's War Record*, by Fred L. Holmes (Capital Historical Publishing Company, Madison); and *Wisconsin in the World War* R. B. Pixley (Wisconsin War History Company, Milwaukee). Both works were produced by trained newspapermen, and were largely compiled and written at the state capital and to some extent in collaboration with state officials, whose assistance is acknowledged by the authors. Accordingly, insofar as the field is covered, the material presented may be said to be largely drawn from official sources and records. Naturally such emergency histories produced before the war was ended would have many limitations, and each author disclaims credit for completeness in his story. However, the books meet an immediate pressing want, a public demand "for the more important available facts of Wisconsin's part in the war," set forth in narrative form and in some order of sequence. Each author observes that his book must of necessity be largely a chronicle of the more outstanding acts and activities of leaders and organizations, and that the warmer personal touches to complete the picture must await, among other things, the return of the expeditionary

forces abroad. A commendable spirit of patriotism pervades the books throughout. In the twenty-two chapters into which each is divided are set forth the organization and operation of the various state activities, the national guard bodies, the council of defense system, the selective service machinery, food and fuel administration, the work of the legislature, the University, women's organizations, etc. Mr. Pixley also gives the personnel of the various military, council of defense, and other organizations. Grouped pictures of many of the men and women who bore prominent parts in war work are given.

While the books bear numerous evidences of haste in preparation, in regard to diction and arrangement of material, and while the historical judgment of the writers may here and there be questioned, the facts as presented will be found to be generally correct and accurately stated. Such works therefore serve a useful present purpose in the dissemination of an inspiring story and the stimulation of patriotism, and will be of much aid to the more ambitious and critical later historian.

A. O. BARTON.

THE WIDER FIELD

The January issue of the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* contains two articles in addition to the usual departments. One of these, by Cyril Upham, discusses "The Speaker of the House of Representatives in June." The other, by Cardinal Goodwin, of Mills College, is an account of the American occupation of Iowa in the period from 1833 to 1860.

In the *Missouri Historical Review* for January three leading articles are printed and in addition the final installment of Gottfried Duden's "Report on Missouri Conditions in 1824-27" is given. The new articles are "The Missouri Merchant One Hundred Years Ago," by J. B. White; "Early Days on Grand River and the Mormon War," by Rollin J. Britton; and "Missouri Capitals and Capitols," by Jonas Viles. The last-named article is to be continued in succeeding numbers of the magazine.

Nathaniel Pryor served as a sergeant in the famous Pacific exploring expedition of Lewis and Clark from 1803-06. Thereafter, like many other members of this expedition, he largely disappears from public view. In Pryor's case, however, we have glimpses, or at least supposed glimpses, of him from time to time. Putting these scattered bits of information together, Professor Thoburn, of Oklahoma, wrote for the 1916 *Proceedings* of the Wisconsin Historical Society a sketch entitled "New Light on the Career of Captain

Nathaniel Pryor." In the *American Historical Review* for January, 1919, is a collection of original documents pertaining to the later career of Pryor. These were found recently in the Indian office at Washington and are contributed to the *Review* by Judge Douglas, of St. Louis. They add materially to our knowledge of the later career of this interesting laborer in the winning of the West.

The contents of the January number of the *Ohio Archeological and Historical Quarterly* are of more than ordinary interest. Byron E. Long contributes a biographical study of Joshua Giddings, noted abolition leader. Of a particular timeliness is a study of "Ohio's German-language Press and the War," by Carl Wittke. Other items of some importance are "Charles Dickens in Ohio in 1842," and "The Tory Proprietors of Kentucky Lands."

The Valley of Democracy (New York, 1919), by Meredith Nicholson, undertakes to interpret for the benefit of the world in general, and incidentally for Middle Westerners themselves, the life of the upper Mississippi Valley at the present time. The subject matter of the book is sufficiently indicated by its chapter headings—"The Folks and their Folksiness," "Types and Diversions," "The Farmer of the Middle West," "Chicago," "The Middle West in Politics," and "The Spirit of the West." In elucidating the spirit of the West, Mr. Nicholson pays considerable attention to the work of "the gallant company of scholars who have established Middle Western history upon so firm a foundation." From these pages we quote the following tribute to the work of Dr. Thwaites and the influence of the institution he did so much to upbuild.

"It is the view of persons whose opinions are entitled to all respect that the winning of the West is the most significant and important phase of American history. Certain it is that the story wherever one dips into it immediately quickens the heart-beat, and it is a pleasure to note the devotion and intelligence with which materials for history have been assembled in all the states embraced in my general title.

"The great pioneer collector of historical material was Dr. Reuben Gold Thwaites, who made the Wisconsin Historical Society the most efficient local organization of its kind in the country. 'He was the first,' writes Dr. Clarence W. Alvord, of the University of Illinois, 'to unite the state historical agent and the university department of history so that they give each other mutual assistance—a union which some states have brought about only lately with great difficulty, while others are still limping along on two ill-mated crutches.'

“Dr. Thwaites was an indefatigable laborer in his chosen field, and an inspiring leader. He not only brought to light a prodigious amount of material and made it accessible to other scholars, but he communicated his enthusiasm to a noteworthy school of historians who have specialized in ‘sections’ of the broad fertile field into which he set the first plough. Where the land is so new it is surprising and not a little amusing that there should be debatable points of history, and yet the existence of these adds zest to the labors of the younger school of historical students and writers. State historical societies have in recent years assumed a new dignity and importance, due in great measure to the fine example set by Wisconsin under Dr. Thwaites’s guidance.”